

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 134**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Thomson**  
(Coauthor: Senator Perata)

January 7, 1999

An act to amend Section 21450 of, and to add Sections 21456.2 and 21456.3 to, the Vehicle Code, relating to transportation.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 134, as introduced, Thomson. Transportation: bicycles.

(1) Existing law requires lights shown by official traffic control signals to apply to drivers of vehicles and pedestrians.

This bill would apply color lighted bicycle symbols, as specified in the bill, shown by official traffic control signals, to the above provisions. The bill would require that bicycle signals be used only at locations that meet specified standards adopted by the Department of Transportation. The bill would also include operators of bicycles within the scope of the provision. Because this bill would expand the scope of an existing crime, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(2) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. Section 21450 of the Vehicle Code is  
2 amended to read:

3 21450. Whenever traffic is controlled by official traffic  
4 control signals showing different colored lights, ~~or~~  
5 colored lighted arrows, *or colored lighted bicycle*  
6 *symbols*, successively, one at a time, or in combination,  
7 only the colors green, yellow, and red shall be used,  
8 except for pedestrian control signals, and those lights shall  
9 indicate and apply to drivers of vehicles, *operators of*  
10 *bicycles*, and pedestrians as provided in this chapter.

11 SEC. 2. Section 21456.2 is added to the Vehicle Code,  
12 to read:

13 21456.2. (a) Unless otherwise directed by a bicycle  
14 signal as provided in Section 21456.3, an operator of a  
15 bicycle shall obey the provisions of this article applicable  
16 to the driver of a vehicle.

17 (b) Whenever an official traffic control signal  
18 exhibiting different colored bicycle symbols is shown  
19 concurrently with official traffic control signals exhibiting  
20 different colored lights or arrows, an operator of a bicycle  
21 facing those traffic control signals shall obey the bicycle  
22 signals as provided in Section 21456.3.

23 SEC. 3. Section 21456.3 is added to the Vehicle Code,  
24 to read:

25 21456.3. (a) An operator of a bicycle facing a green  
26 bicycle signal shall proceed straight through or turn right  
27 or left or make a U-turn unless a sign prohibits a U-turn.  
28 An operator of a bicycle, including one turning, shall yield  
29 the right-of-way to other traffic and to pedestrians  
30 lawfully within the intersection or an adjacent crosswalk.

31 (b) An operator of a bicycle facing a steady yellow  
32 bicycle signal is, by that signal, warned that the related  
33 green movement is ending or that a red indication will be  
34 shown immediately thereafter.



1 (c) Except as provided in subdivision (d), an operator  
2 of a bicycle facing a steady red bicycle signal shall stop at  
3 a marked limit line, but if none, before entering the  
4 crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or, if none,  
5 then before entering the intersection, and shall remain  
6 stopped until an indication to proceed is shown.

7 (d) Except when a sign is in place prohibiting a turn,  
8 an operator of a bicycle, after stopping as required by  
9 subdivision (c), facing a steady red bicycle signal, may  
10 turn right, or turn left from a one-way street onto a  
11 one-way street. An operator of a bicycle making a turn  
12 shall yield the right-of-way to pedestrians lawfully within  
13 an adjacent crosswalk and to traffic lawfully using the  
14 intersection.

15 (e) A bicycle signal shall be used only at those locations  
16 that meet geometric standards or traffic volume  
17 standards, or both, as adopted by the Department of  
18 Transportation.

19 SEC. 4. No reimbursement is required by this act  
20 pursuant to Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California  
21 Constitution because the only costs that may be incurred  
22 by a local agency or school district will be incurred  
23 because this act creates a new crime or infraction,  
24 eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty  
25 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section  
26 17556 of the Government Code, or changes the definition  
27 of a crime within the meaning of Section 6 of Article  
28 XIII B of the California Constitution.

29 Notwithstanding Section 17580 of the Government  
30 Code, unless otherwise specified, the provisions of this act  
31 shall become operative on the same date that the act  
32 takes effect pursuant to the California Constitution.